

# Spaceport News

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## World awaits Space Shuttle's triumphant return to space

### Discovery set to launch July 13

NASA has cleared the Space Shuttle to Return to Flight. After a two-day Flight Readiness Review meeting at Kennedy Space Center, senior managers approved a July 13 launch date for Discovery.

Commander Eileen Collins and her crew are scheduled to lift

off at 3:51 p.m. on the first U.S. space flight since the February 2003 loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

"After a vigorous, healthy discussion our team has come to a decision: we're ready to go," NASA Administrator Mike Griffin said after the meeting. "The past two and half years have resulted in significant improvements that have greatly

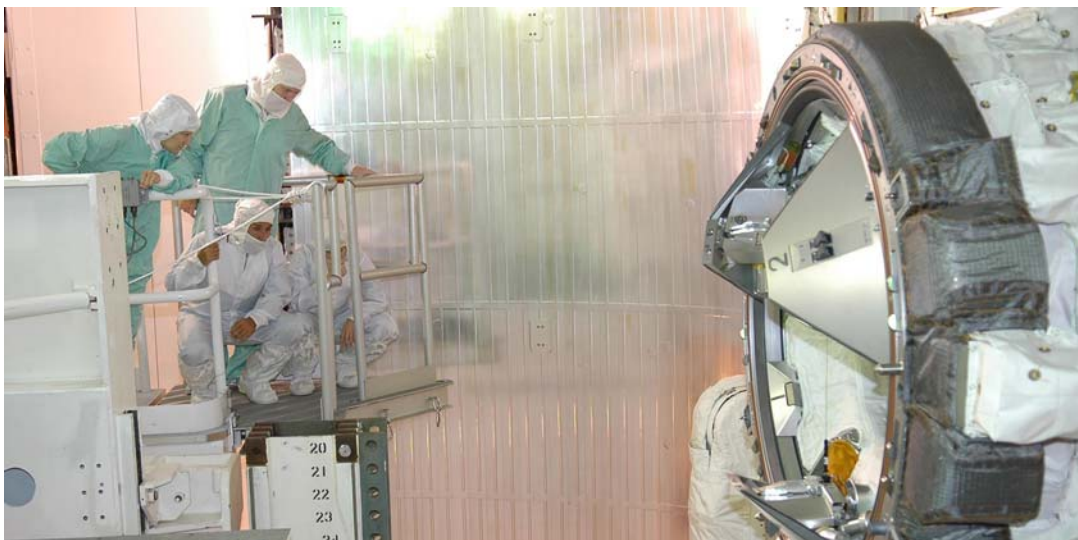
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SPACE SHUTTLE managers take questions from the media during a press conference held following the conclusion of the Flight Readiness Review for Space Shuttle Discovery's Return to Flight mission STS-114. From left are NASA's Administrator Mike Griffin, Associate Administrator for Space Operations Bill Readdy, Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons and Space Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach.



ABOVE, the Space Shuttle Discovery rests on a Mobile Launcher Platform at Launch Pad 39B. During its 12-day mission, Discovery's seven-person crew will test new hardware and techniques to improve Shuttle safety, as well as deliver supplies to the International Space Station.



LEFT, at Launch Pad 39B, STS-114 Commander Eileen Collins (left) inspects the air lock in Space Shuttle Discovery's payload bay as Mission Specialists Charles Camarda and Wendy Lawrence (kneeling) look on.



**Jim Kennedy**  
Center Director

## The Kennedy Update

**D**iscovery "is go for launch July 13." I don't think I've ever heard any sweeter music to my ears than when NASA Administrator Mike Griffin announced that to the world during a press conference June 30.

Now, with a little cooperation from Mother Nature, Discovery with her gallant crew of seven will zoom off Pad B at 3:51 p.m. Wednesday, heading for their rightful place in space at the International Space Station.

There is an old phrase people use when looking back on life that says, "The days were long, but the months and years flew by." I couldn't think of a better analogy to describe the time since we lost Columbia, fixed the problems needing correcting and then began our journey toward

safely returning the Space Shuttle fleet to space.

I don't have to tell anyone here about long days; that is about the only thing people have worked since we began implementing recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board report in 2003.

But I hope as you see Discovery fly, you'll know it was all worth it because it definitely is. I'm proud of your efforts and I know all the Space Shuttle Program leaders, along with all of our contractor leadership teams, are extremely proud of the personal sacrifices people have made to reach this point.

But more importantly, the American public and indeed the world want you to succeed and take pride in your work. This is not just talk; they prove it with

big examples like their support of the Vision for Space Exploration that is now the official space policy of the United States.

They do it in little ways, as well. Did you know that within an hour of the announcement that we're launching July 13, Delaware North sold out of launch viewing tickets? Nobody will ever convince me that the American public doesn't support space; they are standing by anxiously waiting to cheer your success.

All I can say at this point is hang on to your hats. Beginning Sunday, 2,500 members of the world's media will converge at KSC to cover the mission.

They'll be followed by hundreds

of VIPs ranging from politicians to movie stars to space legends. It will be an exciting time for NASA, KSC and America.

I know everyone will do their best to make our guests feel welcome. This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment and we are lucky to experience it firsthand.

So after 29 intense months of preparation, it comes down to five days until launch. I'm already tingling with excitement and I know you are, as well. What a great time to be alive and part of our nation's human space flight program.

Take care and God bless the STS-114 crew, Discovery and the United States of America!



NASA Administrator Mike Griffin shakes hands with United Space Alliance technician Richard Van Wart. From left are Van Wart, Center Director Jim Kennedy, Griffin and Space Shuttle Atlantis Vehicle Manager Scott Thurston.

## Former Spaceport Engineering director accepts new position

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

**J**im Heald, director of the Spaceport Engineering and Technology (SE&T) directorate at Kennedy Space Center since 2001, has accepted a new position as general manager of InDyne's Range Operations and Maintenance contract at the Eglin Test and Training Complex at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

The move is a return to his roots of aircraft testing. He was previously stationed at Eglin AFB from 1978-79, 1992-95 and 1996-98. He begins his new position this month.

During his 26-year career in the U.S. Air Force, Heald flew operationally and then attended the Air Force's Test Pilot School, first as a student and later as an instructor and director of student

training. "Many of the astronauts are my friends or former students, including the Columbia crew, as well as some who will fly on mission STS-114," Heald said.

He served as vice commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, where he played a key role in directing the Air Force's science and technology program. Heald's research and testing experience brought him to NASA and KSC. "The space business is pretty exciting," said Heald.

In his new position at Eglin AFB, he will manage several different test facilities, including the McKinley Climatic Laboratory. The lab is capable of containing a full-size airplane with its engines running, while various climates are simulated for research and testing.

Reflecting on accomplishments over the years, Heald said the SE&T mission aims to provide innovative solutions to complex technical problems. As proof of the results, KSC was second across the Agency in the number and dollar value of Space Act Awards several times in the past four years, and also received the NASA Invention of the Year twice

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**JIM HEALD**, former director of Spaceport Engineering and Technology at Kennedy Space Center, is returning to Eglin Air Force Base.



# Krause represents One NASA's 'best of the best'

By Linda Herridge  
Staff Writer

**P**aul Krause, a director in the Orbiter Vehicle Engineering Project Office with The Boeing Company at Kennedy Space Center, was recently awarded the Center's One NASA "Best of the Best" Peer Award.

He received a One NASA Peer Award earlier this year for his work on the orbiter vehicle reaction control systems wire-to-wire short circuit risk assessment and analysis for the International Space Station Program office.

Krause, who reports directly to NASA's Orbiter Project at Johnson Space Center in Houston, works primarily with United Space Alliance. He was recognized for coordinating risk assessments with other NASA Centers, including Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif.; Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama; and Johnson, over a two-year period.

According to Krause, the risk assessment was a Space Station Program Return to Flight review issue.

Krause's responsibilities included gathering all the data and coordinating the analyses. According to Krause, the assessments and analyses are complete and the Shuttle and Space Station programs are examining the data results to determine the next steps.

"The entire Boeing Shuttle team is proud of the recognition Paul has received from NASA," said Ed Statham, Boeing association program director for Orbiter Vehicle Engineering at Johnson.

"He continually demonstrates a great capacity to recognize and utilize all available resources in driving toward partnered solutions with our customers."

The Agency's One NASA Peer Awards recognizes civil servants and contractors who make significant contributions in one of the following areas: making decisions for the common good; collaborating to leverage existing capabilities; and standardization that demonstrates efficiency. Nominations are submitted by co-workers.

KSC Director Jim Kennedy presented Krause with the Center "Best of the Best" award earlier this month. "I was definitely surprised and honored to receive the award," Krause said. "One of the main goals of the project was to collect all the information and retain objectivity in order to assess all the possibilities."

Krause said the wire-to-wire analyses could be applied to the Vision for Space Exploration and future launches. "Any time you do a risk assessment, you're helping the next-generation vehicle and any of NASA's manned and unmanned flights," Krause said.

Prior to his current position at Boeing, Krause served as chief team engineer for all orbiter vehicle systems including reaction control systems, fluids, mechanical areas, and electrical wiring and avionics. He came to KSC in 1989 and has worked for Lockheed Martin and United Space Alliance.

Krause is looking forward to a successful return to flight. "I'm ready to go. We're excited and



PAUL KRAUSE (above) received NASA's "Best of the Best" Peer Award for a Space Station study he conducted. Below, Krause receives the award from Center Director Jim Kennedy.

the orbiters are ready to go," Krause said. "We're as safe as we're ever going to be. There's always some risk, but we've minimized it to the greatest extent possible."

Krause is married to his wife, Monica, and they have three children - Paulina, 15, and twin sons Adam and Peter, 13. In his spare time, he likes to coach

Little League Baseball, participate in church activities and spend time with his family. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania in 1986.

For more information about the One NASA Peer Awards, visit the Web site at <http://www.onenasa.gov/Onehome.htm>.

## Heald trained some Columbia, Return to Flight astronauts

### HEALD . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

since 2000.

Heald said the SE&T's role was integral in Columbia debris analysis and many projects for Return to Flight, including designing new brackets for the pan and tilt cameras for the Space Shuttle. Recently, the Space Life Sciences Laboratory

was brought into full operational capability.

The directorate has also been active in inspiring the next generation of explorers by managing programs, including the Space and Life Sciences Training Program, which has involved students from the U.S., Canada and Central America.

"The people here are absolutely outstanding," said Heald.

"One of the strengths here is the innovative spirit and can-do attitude. We're a service organization with a proven capability to support and provide solutions to our customers' needs."

Center Director Jim Kennedy praised Heald's abilities. "Jim's experience and expertise have added immensely to the success of KSC," Kennedy said. "He will be greatly missed as he departs

to his new position."

Heald said he is leaving the organization in very capable hands. "I have the utmost confidence in them. SE&T is postured to support the exploration initiative and will have a key role in designing the new ground-support equipment and infrastructure for the Crew Exploration Vehicle."



# NASA sets Discovery's launch date for

## DISCOVERY . . . (Continued from Page 1)

reduced the risk of flying the Shuttle. But we should never lose sight of the fact that space flight is risky.

"The Discovery mission, designated STS-114, is a test flight," Griffin said, noting that astronauts will try out a host of new Space Shuttle safety enhancements.

In addition, Discovery will carry 15 tons of supplies and replacement hardware to the International Space Station. July 13 is the beginning of three weeks of possible launch days that run through July 31.

NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Operations, Bill Readdy, chaired the Flight Readiness Review, the meeting that traditionally sets launch dates and assesses the Shuttle's fitness to fly.

"The decision is an important

milestone in returning the Shuttle to service for the country. Our technical and engineering teams are continuing their in-depth preparations to ensure that Eileen and her crew have a successful mission," he said.

Before the launch date announcement, the Stafford-Covey Task Group made its final recommendations about NASA's Return to Flight. Afterward, Griffin commented, "The independent Return to Flight Task Group, led by veteran astronauts Thomas Stafford and Richard Covey, has performed a valuable public service. Given the level of complexity of the issues involved, I would certainly expect to hear, and I welcome different points of view.

"As an engineer, I know that a vigorous discussion of these complex issues can make us smarter. We appreciate this input."



STS-114 MISSION Specialist Soichi Noguchi (prone) inspects the payloads in Space Shuttle Discovery's payload bay at Launch Pad 39B.

BELOW, STS-114 Mission Specialists Stephen Robinson (left) and Andrew Thomas discuss the payloads in Space Shuttle Discovery's cargo bay.



AT LAUNCH Pad 39B, the cargo bay doors on Space Shuttle Discovery begin to close around the payloads installed in the bay. Payload bay door closure is a significant milestone in launch preparations.



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THE LIGHTWEIGHT Multi-Purpose Experiment Support Structure Carrier (LMC), supporting the Control Moment Gyroscope (right) and a tile repair sample box, is viewed before the orbiter's payload bay doors are closed for launch.



# e for July 13 as the world watches



AT LAUNCH Pad 39B, STS-114 Pilot James Kelly discusses the payloads in Space Shuttle Discovery's cargo bay with his fellow crew members. Below, Discovery rests at Launch Pad 39B.



AT LEFT, workers start securing an upper section of the support base for a 50-foot C-band radar antenna being erected on a radar site on North Merritt Island. The site will be used for Space Shuttle imagery.

BELOW, the 50-foot C-band radar antenna dish is lowered toward the top of the support structure.



## Space Shuttle's Return to Flight: Mission STS-114 highlights

### Flight Day 1

- Discovery is scheduled to launch at 3:51 p.m. at Launch Pad 39B

### Flight Day 2

- The crew surveys Discovery's upper surfaces and the crew cabin using the Shuttle Remote Manipulator System (SRMS)

### Flight Day 3

- Discovery docks with the Space Station

### Flight Day 4

- The crew grapples the Raffaello Multi-Purpose Logistics Module (MPLM) with the SRMS, unberths the MPLM from Discovery and installs it on the Unity module's Common Berthing Mechanism

### Flight Day 5

- The Shuttle crew begins the first spacewalk from the Shuttle air lock

### Flight Day 6

- Transfers continue from Discovery to the Space Station

### Flight Day 7

- The second spacewalk begins

### Flight Day 8

- Discovery crew conducts its in-flight news conference

### Flight Day 9

- The third spacewalk of the mission begins

### Flight Day 10

- The MPLM is berthed in Discovery's payload bay

### Flight Day 11

- Discovery undocks and separates from the Space Station

### Flight Day 12

- Crew performs Flight Control System checkout and begins cabin stowage in preparation for landing

### Flight Day 13

- Landing occurs at Kennedy Space Center

## Mogan, Soto Toro boost NASA's link with minority schools

By Jennifer Wolfinger  
Staff Writer

Through the NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program, Paul Mogan and Dr. Felix Soto Toro are strengthening NASA's relationship with minority educational institutions while enhancing their own skills.

Kennedy Space Center's Mogan and Soto Toro will teach, conduct research and participate in developmental assignments for more than a year.

Mogan, a Spaceport Engineering and Technology project manager, will further develop vision enhancement technology by partnering with Morgan State University in Baltimore, several disability experts, and the Vision Enhancement Technology Center, which is a joint-venture between West Virginia University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"This will help NASA's goals of developing a quality pool of disabled employees in the science, technology, engineering and math fields," said Mogan, who is legally blind. "NASA will be able to hire people who are bright and just happen to be disabled."

The visual assistant he's developing enlarges images and offers navigational assistance. It will improve the productivity of disabled employees, increase work force diversity, support NASA's safety objectives, and even influence consumer and military markets.

Soto Toro is returning to Puerto Rico, his native country, to teach at the Universidad InterAmericana de Puerto Rico's



PAUL MOGAN (wearing device above) and Dr. Felix Soto Toro (below) will participate in the NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program.



Bayamon Campus. No student from the school has ever joined NASA's internship program and Soto Toro hopes to inspire students to do so. The aspiring astronaut will then spend a year working in different organizations at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Motivated by challenges such as learning English and pursuing a challenging NASA career, Soto Toro plans to use this experience

as a way to better himself and the Agency.

"I'm looking forward to sharing my gained space program knowledge, experiencing the cultural and political differences in the island, as I believe it will help shape my professional abilities," said Soto Toro, a certified project manager who has worked primarily in the Spaceport Engineering and Technology directorate. He is

participating in a detail with the International Space Station directorate during Return to Flight.

He'll also help the university develop an infrastructure to conduct research relevant to NASA, continue flight school lessons and perform NASA outreach in the community. During the second portion, he'll serve as a liaison between Johnson and KSC so he can better understand the centers' processes in order to contribute to the programs.

The NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program provides research opportunities at NASA centers or other large institutions and enables recipients to better compete in NASA's mainstream, peer-reviewed research programs.

Fellows also interface with high-level government officials, participate in NASA's Research and Development programs, and learn about innovative scientific and engineering research methods.

To be eligible, applicants must be full-time NASA employees at a GS-13 level or above with a master's or doctorate degree, be recommended by the branch chief or directorate head and the Center director, and agree to continue working at NASA for two years following the fellowship tenure.

The United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation administers the fellowship. Visit <http://www.uncfsp.org/nasa/nafp> for more information. For details about other NASA education programs, visit <http://education.nasa.gov>.

## NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter set for August launch

IN THE Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility, workers from Lockheed Martin begin deploying the solar array on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO). After solar array testing, the MRO will be transported to the Vertical Integration Facility in late July. It will join the Atlas V for the final phase of launch preparations. The spacecraft is then scheduled to undergo a functional test, and a final week of integrated testing and closeouts. The MRO was built by Lockheed Martin for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. It is the next major step in Mars exploration and scheduled for launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in a window opening Aug. 10.





## RockIt on musical mission to promote NASA worldwide

By Jeff Stuckey  
Editor

As the band RockIt launches into its high-energy NASA tribute song, "Return To Space," an audience of Kennedy Space Center employees and other patrons at a Port Canaveral bar and grill smile and nod their heads to the beat.

Lead singer Lew Ingelido is clearly enthused by the audience's reaction as he starts the first verse: *"Many heroes have walked this road before, boldly seeking the unknown. Now it's time to step up to the plate and send that bird back to its home."*

As he progresses through the song, Ingelido's words bring the crowd to its feet as they dance along. *"Mission driven, working safely . . . We'll hold a sure and steady pace. Return to space!"*

Since RockIt wrote the song about Space Shuttle Discovery's Return to Flight and debuted it at the 2005 KSC All American Picnic, the response has been upbeat and positive.

"At every event we play, we carry the space theme no matter

what stage performance we do," says Ingelido, who has worked at KSC almost 25 years and is employed by United Space Alliance. "We let the audience know that's what we do. We feel like we are ambassadors for the space program."

Tony Castro, a manager at Northrop Grumman, plays keyboards and sings vocals for the band. He wrote the song to commend the KSC work force and the astronauts for the hard work and dedication they're putting into the mission.

Other RockIt members include lead guitarist and vocalist Matt Nysten, who is employed by Lockheed Martin in Orlando; drummer Steve Cowen, who works in music sales; and bass guitarist John Little, a contractor in Melbourne. The band was formed in the summer of 2000.

Another goal of the group is to have "Return To Space" played as a wake-up song for the astronauts once they're in space.

RockIt performed at many local events that will always be etched in their memories.

The first was the KSC Picnic, where people "just went crazy



THE ROCKIT band (above), from left, includes: John Little, bassist and vocals; Steve Cowen, drums; Lew Ingelido, lead vocals and percussion; Tony Castro, keyboard and vocals; and Matt Nysten, guitarist and lead vocals.

after hearing it," he says. The picnic committee asked all the bands to perform a space-related song, which resulted in "Return To Space."

"There could not have been a better place to debut this song than at the picnic," Ingelido says.

Another special moment was when the group played the song at Grills Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar in Port Canaveral to many

KSC workers and other patrons shortly after the last Titan IV launch.

The group is proud to live, work and perform on Florida's Space Coast and its members hope this new song helps others share the same excitement they feel about the return of manned space flight. Visit <http://www.therockitband.com> for information.

## Georgia student enjoys Space Camp thanks to Royer

By Jennifer Wolfinger  
Staff Writer

After sharing NASA's message to Medlock Elementary School students in Decatur, Ga., Kennedy Space Center employee Eugene Royer decided to further extend the learning opportunity for one lucky child.

He and his wife, Oralee, created a Camp Kennedy Space Center scholarship because of the enthusiasm the third- through fifth-graders showed when he spoke to them in March.

Students applied by submitting an essay about why they want to attend the week-long camp at the Astronaut Hall of Fame in Titusville. A new teacher judged the anonymous entries and selected the winner, 8-year-old Noah Abeyta.

The Royers required a parent or guardian to accompany the child and offered their Merritt Island home for lodging.

Royer, an avionics engineer with United Space Alliance, urges everyone to participate in current outreach opportunities or to create new methods such as his scholarship idea.

"Something simple like this may be all it takes to really start a lasting interest in space," he said.

Royer's outreach will continue through Abeyta, because the boy plans to tell his classmates about his experiences when school resumes.

Abeyta was thankful to Royer for the adventure and most enjoyed playing the role of "Mission Specialist 1" during a mission simulation. When he wasn't at camp, he enjoyed



EUGENE ROYER (left), an avionics engineer with United Space Alliance, provided tuition and housing for Noah Abeyta to attend Camp KSC. Noah, who lives in Decatur, Georgia, was accompanied by a parent.

Florida's attractions and food.

Abeyta doesn't know what profession he'll choose when he's older, but the lessons from

camp will help in life, regardless.

"I learned not to give up on things and work together as a team," Abeyta shared.

# NOAA site at Shuttle Landing Facility aids 50-year study

By Jeff Stuckey  
Editor

**K**ennedy Space Center is preparing to take part in a new climate-observing network that will drastically improve the nation's awareness of the weather's impact on our lives.

NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Air Force will work together on the U.S. Climate Reference Network, which will examine climate trends and change throughout the nation and its surrounding regions for the next 50 years.

The network will provide unprecedented awareness of the impact of the environment and climate variability on the quality of life and economic health of America.

The network's goal is to provide long-term observations of surface air temperature and precipitation that can be combined with previous studies to detect present and future climate changes. When fully operational, the network will consist of several hundred instrument sites, including KSC, strategically selected to capture climate trends and variations across the nation.

John Madura and Frank Merceret of KSC's Weather Office assisted NOAA in finding the ideal location for the new site, located at the Shuttle Landing Facility.

Merceret described the significant benefits KSC will receive from the network. "The main benefit is that there are instruments being provided that Kennedy Space Center does not have, including a solar-radiation

measuring device and an infrared surface temperature instrument," he said. "Solar radiation was previously monitored by a project that ran out of funding, and we still have occasional requests for this measurement, particularly from the engineers who estimate the solar heating effects and the formation of ice on the External Tank of the Space Shuttle. We will now have an instrument to measure this."

In addition, NOAA will collect long-term data and integrate it with an international network that is carefully calibrated to examine global change. This gives Kennedy a unique opportunity to compare its sensor system with the NOAA site that is approximately 100 feet away.

Employees of Computer Sciences Raytheon, the Eastern Range Technical Services contractor for the Air Force, will maintain the site. The Eastern Range operates and maintains most of the weather towers, including the towers at the Shuttle Landing Facility.

"The key to the network's success is to find sites where the micro-climate surrounding the area will be stable," Merceret said. "Large government installations are ideal places, so that made Kennedy Space Center a preferred site. It has the ideal kind of terrain and it's protected from change over the long term."

The program will measure the following climate-related conditions over the next 50 years:

- air temperature
- precipitation
- solar radiation
- wind speed



THIS CLIMATE monitoring station at the Shuttle Landing Facility will monitor changes over a 50-year period. Future NASA missions may also benefit from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-funded project.

- ground surface temperature
- relative humidity
- soil moisture and temperature

The network will also contribute to NASA missions, including the satellite programs. There are a number of satellites in orbit, with many to be launched in the coming years, which will study ways to remotely monitor rainfall, soil moisture and temperature and to remotely sensor the radiation properties of Earth.

KSC's station, because it has rain gauges and radiation sensors, can be used in conjunction with these missions. The instruments will be continuously calibrated and upgraded, and the data will be posted on the Internet in real time.

KSC's Suzy Cunningham worked with many of the NASA

directorates, the Air Force and NOAA to ensure all requirements were met. She previously worked in the Spaceport Engineering and Technology directorate, where she was contacted by NOAA and started working the approvals. By February 2004, Cunningham switched jobs to the Business Development office, but kept the responsibilities of procuring the site. The site shifted locations because of restrictions associated with the NASA and Air Force instruments, but ultimately found its current location.

"I worked with a truly great team and everybody had a 'let's get it done' attitude," Cunningham said. "The Shuttle team, the Weather Office, the facility and safety teams, they were all outstanding."

## Federal women's program hosts lab tour

**T**he Federal Women's Program Working Group is hosting a one-hour session July 19 at 1 p.m. in the Operations and Checkout Building's Mission Briefing Room about the research programs at the Space Life Sciences (SLS) Laboratory.

Debbie Wells of Bionetics Corporation will present an overview of the SLS Lab and discuss how the research programs support the Vision for Space Exploration. SLS Lab researchers will be available to talk about their specific areas of research and answer questions afterward. For information, contact Jeannie Ruiz at 867-5833 or Jeanne Ryba at 867-7824.



John F. Kennedy Space Center

## Spaceport News

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